



PREPROPOSAL STATEMENT OF INQUIRY

CR-101 (June 2004)

(Implements RCW 34.05.310)

Do **NOT** use for expedited rule making

Agency: Department of Social and Health Services, Economic Services Administration

Subject of possible rule making:

The department is proposing to amend all necessary sections in WAC 388 to implement annual adjustments to standards for WASHCAP and the Washington Basic Food Program. The proposed changes include updates to the following standards for Federal Fiscal Year 2012: WAC 388-412-0015, "General information about your Basic Food allotments"; WAC 388-450-0185, "What income deductions does the department allow when determining if I am eligible for food benefits and the amount of my monthly benefits?"; WAC 388-450-0190, "How does the department figure my shelter cost income deduction for Basic Food?"; WAC 388-450-0195, "Does the department use my utility costs when calculating my Basic Food or WASHCAP benefits?"; WAC 388-478-0060, "What are the income limits and maximum benefit amounts for Basic Food?"; WAC 388-492-0070, "How are my WASHCAP food benefits calculated?"; and any other related rules.

Statutes authorizing the agency to adopt rules on this subject:

RCW 74.04.005; 74.04.050; 74.04.055; 74.04.057; 74.04.500; 74.04.510; 74.08.090. 74.08A.120

Reasons why rules on this subject may be needed and what they might accomplish:

These standards are required by federal regulations and approved department waivers. Under Federal regulations these standards must be adjusted annually in order to determine a client's eligibility and benefit level for the Washington Basic Food Program or the WASHCAP.

Identify other federal and state agencies that regulate this subject and the process coordinating the rule with these agencies:

The United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) annually adjusts income and payment standards, the standard deduction, and maximum shelter deductions for the upcoming federal fiscal year. FNS also requires that the department adjust the SNAP utility allowance and WASHCAP standards on an annual basis. DSHS adopts the new FNS standards into administrative rule. The department adjusts WASHCAP standards as required under the department's approved waiver based on changes to the Consumer Price Index.

The department will update the current Standard Utility Allowance for Basic Food, adjusting for inflation for the various utilities included in the SUA deduction and submitting proposed standards to FNS for approval. The standards approved by FNS will be adopted by the department for use in determining monthly benefits for Basic Food and WASHCAP.

Process for developing new rule (check all that apply):

- ☒ Negotiated rule making
- ☐ Pilot rule making
- ☐ Agency study
- ☐ Other (describe)

DSHS welcomes the public to take part in developing the rules. Anyone interested should contact the staff person identified below. At a later date, DSHS will file a proposal with the Office of the Code Reviser with a notice of proposed rule making. A copy of the proposal will be sent to everyone on the mailing list and to anyone who requests a copy.

How interested parties can participate in the decision to adopt the new rule and formulation of the proposed rule before publication:

(List names, addresses, telephone, fax numbers, and e-mail of persons to contact; describe meetings, other exchanges of information, etc.) Contact: Holly St. John, Policy Analyst

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DATE
April 5, 2011

NAME (TYPE OR PRINT)
Katherine Vasquez

SIGNATURE

TITLE
DSHS Rules Coordinator

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

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STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

DATE: April 06, 2011

TIME: 10:17 AM

WSR 11-08-069